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RING TESTING

FOR BRUCELLOSIS IN CANADA

How the Program Works

There are four basic steps:

1. Milk or cream samples are collected at dairies and creameries at regular intervals from all milk and cream shippers.
2. These samples are forwarded to a federal laboratory, where they are tested for brucellosis.
3. Test results are forwarded to federal disease control officials in the provinces where the samples originated.
4. Negative tests are credited to herds and areas of origin.

When the tests indicate that infection may be present, the Health of Animals Branch veterinarian works directly with the owner until the disease is eradicated.

Who Participates in The Program ?

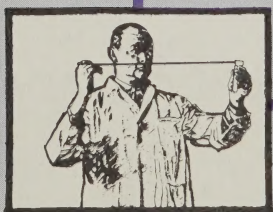
Every livestock owner who ships milk or cream.

The owner should make sure that the plant records show that he owns the cattle supplying milk to the dairy, so that he will be credited with a test under the program.

Area Can Be Recertified on the Basis of BRT Results

Any area that has once been certified as a result of a blood test can be recertified for a period of three years under this plan, provided that milk or cream samples from all of the herds have been tested at least three times each year for a three-year period.

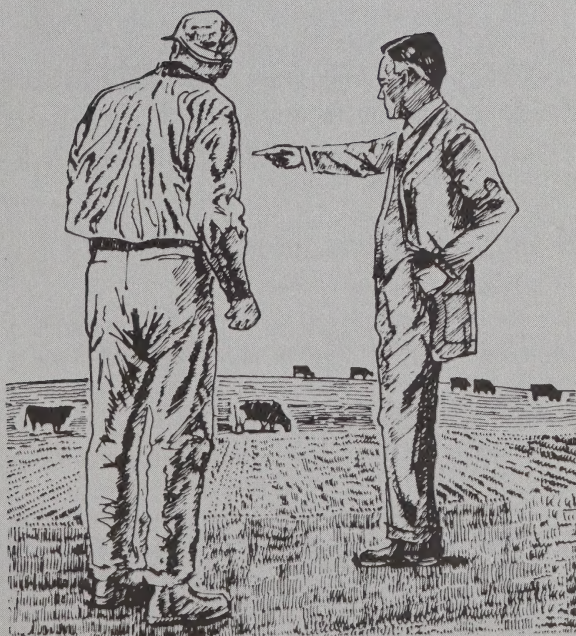
After milk from the farm has been shipped to the dairy, samples are collected and sent to a federal Health of Animals Branch laboratory for the brucellosis ring testing.



District Veterinarian Branch Offices

HEALTH OF ANIMALS BRANCH

British Columbia.....	1001 West Pender Street Room 801 Vancouver 1, B.C.
Alberta.....	403 Public Building Calgary, Alta.
Saskatchewan.....	828 Motherwell Building Regina, Sask.
Manitoba.....	613 Dominion Public Building Main & Water Streets Winnipeg, Man.
Ontario.....	Dominion Public Building 1979 Weston Road Weston, Ont.
Quebec.....	400 Youville Square Room 715 Montreal 1, Que.
Atlantic Provinces.....	Room 423 Federal Building 1081 Main Street Moncton, N.B.





BRUCELLOSIS RING TEST

Once all the cattle in a district have been brucellosis tested and the infected animals removed, the regular application of rapid screening tests will quickly identify new centers of infection without having to blood-test all of the cattle every few years.

The Brucellosis Ring Testing program (BRT) is designed to do this work in dairy herds, in much the same way as the Market Cattle Testing does in range and beef-producing areas.

Under the BRT program, samples of milk and cream are collected from each patron's supply at all dairies and creameries. The samples are tested for brucellosis, and whenever there is a

What Is a Brucellosis Ring Test ?

The ring test, conducted on milk or cream samples, is based on the fact that brucellosis-infected cows shed antibodies known as agglutinins in their milk. When milk samples containing brucella agglutinins are mixed with a stained brucella antigen, a reaction occurs which can be utilized to detect the presence of infection in a herd. The reaction shows as a blue ring in the sample.

Are Samples Taken at All Dairies and Creameries ?

Health of Animals Branch inspectors visit all dairies and creameries at regular intervals to arrange for the collection of samples from every patron. If a livestock owner ships to more than one plant, or changes his contract from time to time, samples will still be collected and the tests credited to him, provided that the inspector knows from whose herd the milk or cream originated.

Where Are Milk Samples Tested ?

Actual testing is done by qualified personnel at various laboratories operated by the Health of Animals Branch.

TING SAVES TIME AND MONEY

suspicion of infection, the owner's herd is submitted to a blood test to determine if brucellosis is present and to eradicate the disease if it does exist.

Provided brucellosis ring tests are conducted at regular intervals (at least three times a year on all milk-producing herds) the area can be recertified without resorting to further blood testing.

In addition to its value in the recertification of brucellosis areas, the brucellosis ring test is generally accepted as a herd test in certifying cattle for export to other countries.

What Happens If Milk from Your Herd Gives a Suspicious Reaction to the Test ?

Federal Health of Animals Branch inspectors will visit you to discuss the test results.

Will Your Entire Herd Have To Be Tested ?

No, only the lactating females.

Does This Program Eliminate Testing on Your Farm ?

Yes, with only three exceptions:

1. If infection is traced to your herd and it is subsequently found to be infected with brucellosis.
2. Unless there is a record of at least three brucellosis ring tests per year on your herd for the past three-year period.
3. Unless 15 percent of your breeding cows were tested under the Market Cattle Testing program during the same period, your herd will have to be blood-tested.

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ROGER DUHAMEL, F.R.S.C.
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